

CLAIM:

1. In a dispenser for dispensing a web from a roll of paper, said dispenser including a housing and a housing cover connected thereto to provide access to the housing interior, said housing defining a dispensing outlet and including means for supporting a paper roll within said housing, a drive roller and tension means operatively associated therewith urging paper from the paper roll into contact with said drive roller for dispensing a length of paper from the paper roll, drive means for rotating said drive roller <sup>and said</sup> ~~including~~ <sup>1</sup> actuator means operatively connected to said drive means, the improvement comprising said actuator means being pivotally mounted on said housing extending outwardly of said housing and across substantially the entire housing at <sup>a</sup> ~~the~~ bottom thereof, whereby pivotal movement of said actuator <sup>means</sup> ~~at~~ operating said drive means to rotate said drive roller causing paper in contact therewith to be unwound from the paper roll and dispensed through said dispensing outlet.

2. The dispenser of claim 1, wherein said actuator means carries an arcuate gear segment and said drive roller carries a gear operatively associated with said arcuate gear segment such that pivotal movement of said actuator means rotates said drive roller causing paper to be dispensed from the roll of paper.

3. The dispenser of claim 1, and further comprising spring means operatively connected to said actuator means to bias said actuator means toward a rest position, movement of said actuator means from the rest position to a dispensing position requiring a

force less than about 3 psi.

4. The dispenser of claim 3, wherein said actuator means includes a bar exterior to said housing, said dispenser having a bottom portion shaped complimentary to the arc through which said bar moves between its rest position and its dispensing position.

5. The dispenser of claim 4, wherein said bar is positioned sufficiently close to said dispenser bottom to prevent users from inserting a finger therebetween.

6. In a dispenser for dispensing a web from a roll of paper, said dispenser including a housing and a housing cover connected thereto movable between a closed position and an open position to provide access to the housing interior, said housing defining a dispensing outlet and including means for supporting a paper roll within said housing, a drive roller rotatably mounted inside said housing for dispensing a length of paper from the paper roll, drive means for rotating said drive roller including actuator means operatively connected to said drive means, the improvement comprising a roller frame assembly mounted within said housing carrying a tension roller thereon, said roller frame assembly being movable between a use position wherein said tension roller contacts a paper web from the roll of paper urging the paper web against said drive roller and a maintenance position wherein said housing cover is in its open position and said roller frame assembly is spaced away from said drive roller to provide access to the housing interior and to said means for supporting a paper roll, whereby movement of said actuator when

said housing cover is in its closed position and said roller frame is in its use position operating said drive means to rotate said drive roller causing paper in contact therewith to be unwound from the paper roll and dispensed through said dispensing outlet.

7. The dispenser of claim 6, wherein said roller frame assembly carries spring means contacting said housing cover when in its closed position urging said roller frame and said tension roller toward said drive roller to maintain frictional contact between the paper web and said drive roller.

8. The dispenser of claim 7, wherein said roller frame assembly is pivotally mounted with respect to said housing.

9. The dispenser of claim 6, wherein said roller frame assembly is biased toward its maintenance position such that when said housing cover is in its open position said tension roller is spaced away from said drive roller permitting easy insertion of a paper web therebetween.

10. The dispenser of claim 6, and further comprising a serrated tear at the bottom of said roller frame assembly for tearing paper dispensed by movement of said actuator.

11. In a dispenser for dispensing a web from a roll of paper, said dispenser including a housing and a housing cover connected thereto to provide access to the housing interior, said housing defining a dispensing outlet and including means for supporting a first paper roll within said housing and means for supporting a second paper roll, a drive roller and tension means

operatively associated therewith urging paper from one of the first and second paper rolls into contact with said drive roller for dispensing a length of paper from the paper roll in contact with said drive roller, drive means for rotating said drive roller including actuator means operatively connected to said drive means, the improvement comprising a transfer roller for releasably holding the free end of the first paper roll while paper from the second paper roll is dispensed upon actuation of said actuator means to rotate said drive means and said drive roller connected thereto, the paper from said second paper roll being positioned between said drive roller and said transfer roller preventing rotation of said transfer roller during rotation of said drive roller until the second paper roll is exhausted whereupon further rotation of said drive roller causing rotation of said transfer roller to cause the free end of the first paper roll to be dispensed from said housing through said dispensing outlet.

12. The dispenser of claim 11, wherein said transfer roller includes a clip for releasably holding the free end of the first paper roll.

13. The dispenser of claim 11, wherein said transfer roller is disposed such that at least a portion thereof is in contact with said driver roller when the second paper roll is exhausted, such that rotation of said drive roller rotates said transfer roller, said tension means being positioned to form a nip with said drive roller such that rotation of said transfer roller due

to the absence of paper between said transfer roller and said drive roller causes the free end of the first paper roll to enter the nip to be dispensed from said housing by further rotation of said drive roller.

14. The dispenser of claim 13, wherein said portion of said transfer roller carries a clip for releasably holding the free end of the first paper roll.

15. The dispenser of claim 14, wherein said portion of said transfer roller is generally cylindrical having a surface segment removed in registry with said clip to accommodate a thickness of paper from the first paper roll between said clip and said cylindrical portion.

16. In a dispenser for dispensing a web from a roll of paper, said dispenser including a housing and a housing cover connected thereto movable between a closed position and an open position to provide access to the housing interior, said housing defining a dispensing outlet and including means for supporting a first paper roll within said housing and means for supporting a second paper roll, a drive roller and a tension roller operatively associated therewith urging paper from one of the first and second paper rolls into contact with said drive roller for dispensing a length of paper from the paper roll in contact with said drive roller, drive means for rotating said drive roller including actuator means operatively connected to said drive means, the improvement comprising a roller frame assembly mounted within said housing carrying said tension roller and a

transfer roller, said roller frame assembly being movable between a use position wherein said tension roller contacts a paper web from a roll of paper urging the paper web against said drive roller and a maintenance position wherein said housing cover is in its open position and said roller frame assembly is spaced away from said drive roller to provide access to the housing interior and to said means for supporting the first and second paper rolls, said transfer roller releasably holding the free end of the first paper roll while paper from the second roll is dispensed upon actuation of said actuator means to rotate said drive means and said drive roller connected thereto, the paper from said second paper roll being positioned between said drive roller and said transfer roller preventing rotation of said transfer roller during rotation of said drive roller until the second paper roll is exhausted whereupon further rotation of said drive roller causing rotation of said transfer roller to cause the free end of the first paper roll to be positioned between said drive roller and said tension roller, whereby movement of said actuator when said housing cover is in its closed position and said roller frame is in its use position operating said drive means to rotate said drive roller causing paper in contact therewith to be unwound from the paper roll and dispensed through said dispensing outlet.

17. The dispenser of claim 16, wherein said roller frame assembly carries spring means contacting said housing cover when in its closed position urging said roller frame and said tension

roller toward said drive roller to maintain frictional contact between the paper web and said drive roller.

18. The dispenser of claim 17, wherein said roller frame assembly is biased toward its maintenance position such that when said housing cover is in its open position said tension roller is spaced away from said drive roller permitting easy insertion of a paper web therebetween.

19. The dispenser of claim 18, and further comprising a serrated tear bar at the bottom of said roller frame assembly for tearing paper dispensed by movement of said actuator.

20. The dispenser of claim 16, and further comprising a chassis mounted inside said housing and having a bottom on which rests the second paper roll, said roller frame assembly being mounted on said chassis for movement between the use and maintenance positions thereof, said drive roller and said actuator means being mounted on said chassis.

21. The dispenser of claim 20, wherein said actuator means includes a bar extending across substantially the entire width of said chassis pivotally mounted on said chassis, pivotal movement of said actuator means causing said actuator bar to travel through a path adjacent to said chassis bottom.

22. The dispenser of claim 20, wherein said actuator means carries an arcuate gear segment and said drive roller carries a gear operatively associated with said arcuate gear segment such that pivotal movement of said actuator means rotates said drive roller causing paper to be dispensed from a roll of paper.

23. The dispenser of claim 22, and further comprising spring means operatively connected to said actuator means to bias said actuator means toward a rest position, movement of said actuator means from the rest position to a dispensing position requiring a force less than about 3 psi.